

plates to one another in a plurality of progressively displaced positions precluding movement of the plates in a second direction opposite said first direction for progressively compressing the bone graft between the adjacent vertebrae.

22. (New) Apparatus according to Claim 21 wherein said plates are interlocked in said positions in response to movement of said plates toward one another.

23. (New) Apparatus according to Claim 21 wherein said interlocking elements include ratchet teeth cooperable between said first and second plates, respectively.

Respectfully submitted,

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